

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-20 were pending in this application. According to the February 9, 2006 Final Rejection, claims 1-3, 9-12, and 14-19 were rejected and claims 4-8, 13, and 20 were allowed. Applicants have amended claim 3 to include the limitations of claim 1 and have cancelled claim 1. Accordingly, claims 2-20 are under consideration. Applicants maintain that the amendments do not introduce any new matter.

Applicants respectfully request this amendment be entered as it raises no new issues, and will place the application in condition for allowance. However, if the Examiner is not persuaded that the application is now in condition for allowance, applicants respectfully request this amendment be entered to place the application in better condition for appeal.

Claims 4-8, 13, and 20 Indicated as Allowed

Applicants note with appreciation that the Examiner has indicated that claims 4-8, 13, and 20 are allowed.

Rejection of Claims 1-3, 9, and 17 over Spitz in view of Lebby

The Examiner rejected previously presented claims 1-3, 9, and 17 as unpatentable, 35 U.S.C. 103(a), over Spitz et al., patent 6,060,776 (hereinafter Spitz) in view of Lebby et al., patent 5,838,703 (hereinafter Lebby). In response to the Examiner's rejection, applicants have amended claim 3 to be an independent claim that includes the limitations of its parent claim 1, have amended claim 2 to depend from claim 3, and have cancelled claim 1. Beginning with claim 3, it recites in part a semiconductor device package comprising:

a base portion, ... a perimeter wall snap fitted to the base portion
and ..., wherein the perimeter wall includes an inwardly extending
bulge positioned at a lower portion of the perimeter wall such that
the bulge snap fits to the base portion.

The Examiner indicated that Spitz substantially discloses in Figure 1 a semiconductor device package 100 as recited by claim 3 and in particular, equated perimeter wall 12 and base portion 3 of this package to the perimeter wall and base portion of claim 3. However, the

Examiner further indicated that Spitz does not teach that perimeter wall 12 includes an inwardly extending bulge that snap fits to base portion 3. Here, the Examiner indicated that Lebby discloses in Figure 1 a perimeter wall 30 that includes an inwardly extending bulge 32 that snap fits to base portion 21 and that it would be obvious to modify the perimeter wall 12 of Spitz in view of Lebby to include an inwardly extending bulge, thereby obviating claim 3. Applicants respectfully disagree because to modify perimeter wall 12 of Spitz in view of Lebby to include an inwardly extending bulge that snap fits to base portion 3 would require a structural reconfiguration of Spitz device package 100 and there is no suggestion or motivation that such a structural change is desirable.

Specifically, as shown in Lebby Figure 1, bulge 32 of perimeter wall 30 extends around the inner circumference of wall 30 and snap fits to base portion 21 by mechanically contacting base portion 21. Notably, as shown in Spitz Figure 1, the inner circumference of perimeter wall 12 is spaced away from base portion 3 by a length of trench 10, with encapsulant 13 filling this space and extending down to and contacting the surface of trench 10. Accordingly, at the very least, to add an “inwardly extending bulge” like bulge 32 of Lebby to a “lower portion” of perimeter wall 12 “such that the bulge snap fits to the base portion” 3 would require the bulge to extend across and over the surface of trench 10 in order to mechanically contact base portion 3. Notably, Spitz already teaches that perimeter wall 12 is locked to the base portion and there is no suggestion that structurally reconfiguring this locking configuration such that perimeter wall 12 now includes a bulge that extends across and over trench 10 is desirable. In addition, applicants also note that such a bulge extending across and over the surface of trench 10 would result in encapsulant 13 no longer extending down to and contacting the surface of trench 10. Again, there is no suggestion that such a structural change is desirable. Accordingly, applicants submit that Spitz and Lebby fail to obviate claim 3, in addition to claims 2 and 9, which depend therefrom.

Turning to independent claim 17, it recites in part a semiconductor device package comprising:

a base portion comprising ... a sidewall ..., a portion of the
sidewall defining a recessed portion; ...
a perimeter wall including a lip extending inwardly from the
perimeter wall such that the lip is capable of being snapped into the

recessed portion of the base portion, securing the perimeter wall to the base portion

The Examiner rejected claim 17 for reasons similar to claim 3. Claim 17 recites limitations similar to claim 3 and is therefore novel and nonobvious in view of Spitz and Lebby for the same reasons as set forth above for claim 1.

Rejection of Claims 10-12, 14-16, and 18-19.

The Examiner rejected claims 10-11 as unpatentable, 35 U.S.C. 103(a), over Spitz and Lebby and in further view of Wasmer et al., patent 5,005,069 (hereinafter Wasmer), rejected claim 12 as unpatentable, 35 U.S.C. 103(a), over Spitz, Lebby, and Wasmer and in further view of Yoshinaga et al., patent 5,886,403 (hereinafter Yoshinaga), rejected claim 14, 18, and 19 as unpatentable, 35 U.S.C. 103(a), over Spitz and Lebby and in further view of Barnett et al., patent 6,541,800 (hereinafter Barnett), and rejected claims 15-16 as unpatentable, 35 U.S.C. 103(a), over Spitz, Lebby, and Barnett and in further view of Kagi et al., patent 6,821,613 (hereinafter Kagi).

Because claims 10-12, 14-16, and 18-19 depend directly or indirectly from independent claims 3 and 17, these claims are nonobvious in view of the cited references for the same reasons as set forth above.

Conclusion

Since Spitz, Lebby, Barnett, Yoshinaga, Wasmer, and Kagi fail to teach or suggest applicants' invention as now set forth in claims 2-3, 9-12, and 14-19, applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the Final Rejection, entry of this amendment, and favorable reconsideration and allowance of these claims.

Applicants earnestly believe that this application is now in condition to be passed to issue, and such action is also respectfully requested. However, if the Examiner deems it would

in any way facilitate the prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone applicants' counsel at the number given below.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on March 13, 2006:

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Name of Person Mailing Correspondence



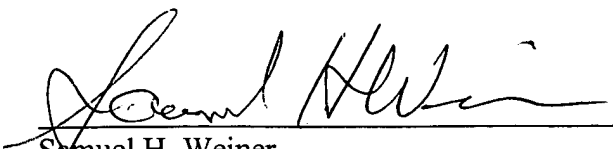
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Respectfully submitted,



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